



Basel Appeal on Disarmament and Sustainable Security

An Open Letter on the INF & START treaties, nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament measures to preserve peace and achieve sustainable security

Adopted in Basel, Switzerland on January 15, 2019.

To: **Donald Trump**, *President of the United States*
Vladimir Putin, *President of the Russian Federation*
Jens Stoltenberg, *Secretary-General of NATO*
Miroslav Lajčák, *Chair of the OSCE*
Federica Mogherini, *EU High Representative for Security and Foreign Affairs*
Eliot Engel, *Chair of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee*
Adam Smith, *Chair of the House Armed Services Committee*
James Inhofe, *Chair of the US Senate Armed Services Committee*
James Risch, *Chair of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee*
Leonid Slutsky, *Chair of the Russian Duma Committee on Foreign Affairs*
Vladimir Shamanov, *Chair of the Russian Duma Committee on Defence*
Konstantin Kosachev, *Chair of the Russian Federation Council Committee on Foreign Affairs*
Viktor Bondarev, *Chair of the Russian Federation Council Committee on Defence and Security*

CC: **Xi Jinping**, *President of China*
Theresa May, *Prime Minister of the United Kingdom*
Emmanuel Macron, *President of France*

Dear President Trump, President Putin, Secretary-General Stoltenberg, Chair Lajčák, High Representative Mogherini, Mr Engel, Mr Smith, Senator Inhofe, Senator Risch, Mr Slutsky, Mr Shamanov, Mr Kosachev and Mr Bondarev,

Last year, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock to 2 Minutes to Midnight citing “the failure of world leaders to deal with looming threats of nuclear war and climate change”, and highlighting the increasingly high risks of a nuclear exchange by accident, miscalculation, conflict escalation or intent.

We applaud the Korean peace and denuclearization process which commenced since then, and we give our full support for continuing diplomacy to ensure success. And we welcome adoption by the United Nations of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

However, we are extremely concerned about the deteriorating security environment in Europe and internationally during 2018 arising from the erosion of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty; United States withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran nuclear non-proliferation agreement); unresolved conflicts between Russia and the West including over Crimea and Syria and between nuclear armed states in other regions including South Asia and the South China Sea; further development and modernization of nuclear weapons and related military systems; and provocative war games and nuclear threat postures.

1) INF Treaty

We are particularly concerned about the unravelling of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, an historic agreement reached in 1987 between the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometres, and to utilize extensive on-site inspections for verification of its implementation.

We call on the United States and Russia to refrain from developing and deploying weapons systems that could violate the Treaty, and to resolve compliance issues through dialogue and through enhanced work of the Special Verification Commission established by the Treaty.

We call on the Russian Duma and U.S. Congress to refuse to authorise, or allocate funding for, the development of weapons systems which could violate the Treaty, such as the Russian 9M729 missile and the proposed new U.S. nuclear-armed cruise missiles.

And we call on European member States of NATO to re-affirm their opposition to any deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe.

2) New START Treaty

We are also concerned that the current conflicts may undermine the new START Treaty which provides common-sense limits and verification on the numbers of U.S. and Russian deployed strategic weapons and delivery vehicles, and which is set to expire in February 2021. We call on the US and Russia to extend the New START Treaty until 2026 and to undertake additional cuts to their nuclear stockpiles, either unilaterally or through negotiations.

3) Nuclear risk-reduction including No-First-Use

In order to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons use by accident, miscalculation or escalation, we call on Russia, the U.S. and NATO to re-affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be launched, and to implement such a declaration by adopting policies to never initiate the use of nuclear weapons ('no-first-use' policies). And we call on Russia and the U.S. to rescind their 'launch-on-warning' policies and to end their high operational readiness to use nuclear weapons.

4) Achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world

We highlight the universal obligation to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, and we welcome the commitment made by NATO and the United States to 'create the conditions' to realise this goal. We call on them to implement this commitment through:

- a) enhanced dialogue and engagement with other nuclear-armed States;
- b) developing an action plan for the comprehensive phase-out of nuclear deterrence and its replacement by common security;
- c) undertaking initial steps by reducing nuclear stockpiles, cancelling nuclear weapons modernisation programs, cutting nuclear weapons budgets and reallocating these funds to support sustainable development; and
- d) joining with other nuclear-armed and reliant States to negotiate a global nuclear weapons convention (to eliminate all nuclear weapons) as already supported by China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and most non-nuclear countries.

We reaffirm that disarmament helps create security, and we commit to acting resolutely for a nuclear-weapons-free and less militarised world. We call on cities, parliaments, governments and civil society around the world to join us in this endeavour.

Endorsers:

The Basel Appeal for Disarmament and Sustainable Security

is endorsed by the following legislators at local, state, national and regional levels (mayors and parliamentarians) and representatives of civil society organisations working with legislators
(list in formation):

Mani Shankar Aiyar (India)

Co-president of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)

Chair, Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan Group for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

Aytuğ Atıcı MP (Turkey)

PNND Council Member

Jasminka Bajlo (Croatia)

Counsellor of the City of Biograd na Moru

Roland Blach (Germany)

Geschäftsführer, Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft - Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen (DFG-VK)

(Secretary, German peace society – United War Resisters)

Cllr David Blackburn (United Kingdom)

Chair of UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Jackie Cabasso (United States)

North American Coordinator, Mayors for Peace

Saber Chowdhury MP (Bangladesh)

Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

PNND Co-President

Paul Dewar (Canada)

Co-president of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

Former Foreign Affairs Critic for the New Democratic Party

Jill Evans MEP (United Kingdom)

Former Vice-President of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Anwar Fazal (Malaysia)

Right Livelihood Award (1982)

John Hallam (Australia)

Chair, Human Survival Project

PNND Australia Coordinator

Co-convenor, Abolition 2000 working group on reducing nuclear risks

Regina Hagen (Germany)

Spokesperson, Abolition 2000 Germany

Cllr. June Hitchen (United Kingdom)

Lord Mayor of Manchester

Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Bill Kidd MSP (Scotland)

Co-president of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

Convenor of the Scottish Parliament All-Party Group on Nuclear

Disarmament

Claudio Knüsli (Switzerland)

Board Member PSR Schweiz, the Swiss affiliate of International

Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

John Mason MSP (Scotland)

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Shettleston

Peggy Mason (Canada)

President, the Rideau Institute

Former Disarmament Ambassador for Canada

Josep Mayoral (Spain)

Mayor of Granollers

Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Kevin Miletic (United Kingdom)

Project Manager, Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation

Baroness Sue Miller (United Kingdom)

Member of the UK House of Lords

PNND Co-president

Sean Morris (United Kingdom)

Secretary, UK Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Christine Muttonen (Austria)

Co-president of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

Former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Margareta Kiener Nellen MP (Switzerland)

Head of Swiss parliament delegation to the OSCE

Parliamentary Assembly

Chair of OSCEPA Committee for democracy, human rights and humanitarian questions

Cllr. Eddy Newman (United Kingdom)

Manchester City Council representative

Luisa Neubauer (Germany)

Youth Climate Campaigner, Fossil Fuel Free Germany

Andres Nidecker (Switzerland)

President of the Basel Peace Office

Board Member PSR Schweiz, the Swiss affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Marzhan Nurzhan (Kazakhstan)

Coordinator, Abolition 2000 Youth Network

PNND Coordinator for CIS Countries

Lukas Ott (Switzerland)

Head of Cantonal and City Development Unit, President's Department, Canton Basel-Stadt, Switzerland

Frank Otto (Germany)

Ambassador of the World Future Council

Eva Quistrop (Germany)

*Former member of the European Parliament.
Founder member of the Greens Party.
Co-founder of Women for Peace Germany and Europe.*

Matt Robson (New Zealand)

*President, NZ affiliate of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms
Former New Zealand Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control*

Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck (Germany)

*Vorsitzender der Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen e.V.
(Chair of Peace Workshop Mutlangen)*

Stefan Schostok (Germany)

*Lord Mayor and CEO of Hannover
Vice-President of Mayors for Peace*

Biyika Lawrence Songa MP (Uganda)

Aaron Tovish (Mexico)

Executive Director, Zone Libre

Erkki Tuomioja MP (Finland)

Social-Democratic Party

Achin Vanaik, Sukla Sen, N.D. Jayprakash, Lalita

Ramdas and Anil Chaudhary (India)
Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace

Thore Vestby (Norway)

Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Václav Vítovec (Czech Republic)

*President of the Iron Curtain Foundation
Founder of the ATOM Museum (former Soviet nuclear weapons depot)*

Edine von Herold (Costa Rica)

*PNNP Alumni Council Member
Former Member of the Costa Rica Parliament PNNP*

Alyn Ware (Czech Republic)

*PNNP Global Coordinator
Right Livelihood Award Laureate 2009*

Jean Pascal Zanders (Belgium)

Director, The Trench